

SCS SB 650 -- A+ SCHOOLS PROGRAM

SPONSOR: Pearce (Cookson)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Higher Education by a vote of 11 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Select Committee on Education by a vote of 10 to 0.

This act modifies the A+ Schools Program by removing the requirement that the student's attendance of a public high school in the state be the three years immediately prior to graduation. A student must graduate from an A+ school to be eligible. This act contains an emergency clause.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say this fixes a kind of "injustice" in the A+ program. We have to make sure any changes to A+ do not affect being able to fund it.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Pearce; Missouri Community College Association; and Missouri NEA.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say at first there were not very many high schools utilizing the A+ program and the thought was that students needed to be there for the three years immediately prior to experience the benefits of the program. Now there are only two or so high schools that do not use the program. As such, the requirement is something of a hold over from A+ inception.

Testifying on the bill was Leroy Wade, Missouri Department of Higher Education.